

**WE CLAIM:**

1. An overhead console assembly for a vehicle, the vehicle having a windshield with an upper portion thereof extending substantially horizontally across the vehicle and a safety bar arrangement with a portion thereof spaced rearwardly of the upper windshield portion and extending substantially horizontally across the vehicle, said upper windshield portion and said safety bar portion being substantially at the same vertical level, said overhead console assembly being respectively mounted to the upper windshield portion and to the safety bar portion to extend therebetween along a first axis.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said upper windshield portion extends along a second axis and said safety bar portion extends along a third axis, said second and third axes being substantially horizontal and further being spaced from each other and substantially parallel to each other.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first axis of said overhead console assembly is substantially perpendicular to said first and second axes.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said upper windshield portion extends along a second axis and said safety bar portion extends along a third axis and said overhead console assembly has first and second end portions spaced from each other along the first axis, said first end portion being secured to the upper windshield portion and said second end portion being secured to said safety bar portion.

5        5.    The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said first end portion of said overhead console is secured to the upper windshield portion substantially midway across the upper windshield portion along the second axis.

5        6.    The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said second end portion of the overhead console assembly is secured to the safety bar portion substantially midway across the safety bar portion along said third axis.

5        7.    The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said first end portion of the overhead console assembly is mounted to said upper windshield portion for pivotal movement relative thereto about a substantially horizontal axis.

5        8.    The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the upper windshield portion includes a rod member and said first end portion of said overhead console assembly is secured to said rod member by a clamping arrangement.

9.    The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said second end portion of the overhead console assembly includes a rearwardly facing, open member engaging said safety bar portion and securable thereto.

10.   The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said rearwardly facing, open member is securable to said safety bar portions by at least one strap extending about said safety bar portion.

11.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said overhead console assembly has first and second end portions spaced from each other along the first axis

5 and mounted for movement relative to each other  
along said first axis between at least two positions  
to selectively adjust the distance between said  
first and second end portions.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the  
length of said overhead console assembly along said  
first axis is adjustable.

13. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the upper  
windshield portion extends along a second  
substantially horizontal axis for a first distance  
and said overhead console assembly has a width in a  
5 direction substantially parallel to said second  
axis, said width being substantially less than said  
first distance.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the  
width of said overhead console assembly is  
substantially uniform along said first axis.

15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the  
vehicle further includes a top selectively  
positionable over the console assembly and extending  
at least between and over parts of the upper  
5 windshield portion and safety bar portion.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said top  
is releasably securable to the upper windshield  
portion.

17. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said top  
is releasably securable to the upper windshield  
portion by at least one latching mechanism.

18. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the  
vehicle top is a soft top made of flexible material.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the vehicle soft top extends substantially between said upper windshield portion and said safety bar portion and further includes a tie-down strap securable to said upper windshield portion and said safety bar portion, said console assembly further including a guide member to receive said strap.

20. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the vehicle top is a hardtop made of substantially rigid material.

21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said hardtop includes at least one section with an edge portion positionable above the console assembly in an abutting relationship on said console assembly wherein said one section of said hardtop is at least partially supported by said console assembly.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said hardtop further includes at least a second section with an edge portion positionable above the console assembly and at least partially supported by said console assembly.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the edge portions of the first and second sections of the hardtop abut one another over the console assembly.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein parts of said abutting edge portions of the first and second sections of the hardtop overlap one another.

25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said overlapping parts of said abutting edge portions interlock with one another.

26. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said overhead console assembly includes at least one instrument.

27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said instrument includes at least one from the group of a speaker, light, and electric power point.

28. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said overhead console assembly includes at least one storage compartment.